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No. 859.—No. 28,259. Entered as second-class matter post office Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 11, 1921.

FIVE CENTS.

## FLOOD DEATH TOLL, 250; 36 BODIES TAKEN FROM DEBRIS IN SAN ANTONIO

### Work of Hunting for Killed in San Antonio Made Difficult By Continued Swollen Streams. Many Victims Believed Under Debris.

## HOUSES PILED ON EACH OTHER BY WATER; DEAD ANIMALS LINE BANKS OF STREAMS

### Stories of Thrilling Rescues Told With Tales of Tragedies—Or- ganized Relief Committee Caring for Sufferers.

#### Thousands of Mexicans Homeless.

By the Associated Press.  
SAN ANTONIO, Tex., September 10.—With the known list of dead standing at thirty-six this afternoon, police officials still believe an estimate of two hundred and fifty lives lost as a result of the disastrous flood which struck this city early Saturday morning to be a conservative one. No attempt has been made to estimate the property damage, but it is certain to run into millions of dollars.

Because of the continued swollen condition of the three streams which caused the flood, the work of recovering bodies is progressing slowly. Great piles of driftwood which have lodged in trees and against bridges, when removed, it is feared, will reveal additional dead. Many bodies also are believed to have floated down stream and may never be accounted for.

Relief work and sanitary precautions are well under way. A thoroughly organized relief committee has begun caring for flood victims and health officers are engaged in a rigid clean-up of the city.

#### HOUSES PILED ONE UPON ANOTHER.

Reports coming from outlying sections confirm the fear, that the flood is the worst in the city's history. Streets in some instances have been swept clean—almost their entire length. Houses in the southern portion of the city were lifted from their foundations and piled one upon another, or in some cases driven entirely through adjoining buildings. Dead animals line the banks of the streams.

The flood waters from the San Antonio river and from Alazan creek and small tributaries inundated an area approximately two miles long by one-half mile wide, including the heart of the business section and a portion of the residence section along River avenue and adjacent streets, as well as the thickly populated west side, where today thousands of Mexicans are homeless and the dead not yet counted.

Such structures as the Brady building, Wolff and Marx department stores, St. Mary's Church and school buildings, the St. Anthony Hotel, the Elks Club, formerly the Travis Club; several hospitals, the central telephone exchange, the city hall, and police and fire headquarters and countless other structures along the low-lying river valley were in the pathway of the flood.

Thousands of things visible to the eye within day dawned, cloudy, gloomy and threatening. But what occurred in the blackness of the night when scores of men, women and children met death in the oil-coated waters of the flood, as houses collapsed, bridges were swept out, trees and electric light and telephone poles crashed, is something that will never be known in detail. Countless acts of heroism are current, as civilians and soldiers braved the current and floating debris to carry women and children to places of safety.

#### Thousands Are Rescued.

Thousands of families along the river were rescued before daybreak by men who worked the long hours, often neck-deep in water, risking their lives almost every minute of that time to save others.

And in keeping with such heroic acts were the tragedies. Babies were swept from mother-arms and lost, mothers were carried away and children rescued. Fathers were lost leaving little ones, and today there are widows and orphans in San Antonio who shudder at the thought of last night.

San Antonio was caught without warning. The rain which caused the flood fell after 3 o'clock Friday evening in the hills along the Almos Creek.

The electric display accompanying the storm was the most vivid ever seen here, as lightning flashed almost continuously and the thunder boomed and reverberated through the heavens. While torrents of rain were still falling in the streets of San Antonio and the residents, unable to get out because of the down-pour, went early to bed, a roar was heard, subdued but ominous, as the flood waters broke upon the town.

#### Water Strikes With Smash.

"It was impossible to stand on your feet against the swift current," said one man, who escaped from his home before the force of the flood struck. "I got away early as the first waters rose and even then I was compelled to cling to buildings, trees, fences and wreckage to get out. I could not stand upright against the water. When the crest came a few minutes later, I do not believe any human being could have withstood it."

#### Bodies Crushed And Bruised.

Large houses were swept about on the flood's crest as though they were paper boxes.

Some of the bodies taken from the flooded waters and awaiting identification in the morgues were crushed and bruised as though beaten with a mighty fist.

#### Automobiles Trapped in Swift.

In the northeastern part of the city the river left its banks about 10:30 o'clock. The water struck across the



## FALL REPAIRS COST SCHOOLS \$130,000

### General Program Arranged in District for Balance of Calendar Year.

#### \$225,000 APPROPRIATED

#### Remainder Will Be Used During First Half of 1922, if Necessary.

A general repair program for the District public schools for the remainder of the current calendar year has been mapped out by District government officials, entailing an expenditure of \$130,000. It includes the renovation of heating plants and plumbing fixtures, painting and caulking.

A portion of the \$130,000 has been spent during the summer in putting the school buildings in good condition for the opening on September 13. Rooms in a number of buildings have been caulked, while some of the schools have received fresh coats of paint on the interior and exterior.

#### Repair Appropriation.

The appropriation bill for the current fiscal year carried \$225,000 for general repair work in the schools. The \$130,000 is a part of this. The remainder will be used, if necessary, it is said, during the first six months of 1922.

Some of the \$130,000 already expended has been used to pay for the removal of the one-room portable structures from various schools. There were six of these portables at the new John Burroughs School, at 18th and Monroe streets, which was recently completed and which will be opened at the inception of the new term. Four of these have been sent to the Garrison School and the two others to the Garnet-Patterson group school. One portable building has been placed at Mott School and another at the Monroe. The portables at the Buchanan and John Eaton schools also have been moved to a new location in the vicinity of these buildings in order to make way for the additions to them, appropriations for which were included in the emergency school building program.

#### 78 Portables to Be Used.

School officials made it clear last night that they will be forced to use again this year the seventy-eight portables which last year took care of the excess pupils in the regular school buildings. They do not plan, however, to have any additional portables built, pointing out they hope to discontinue the use of these emergency structures within the next several years.

#### Postal Clerks Held Up.

#### Five Bandits Rob Office of Two Pouches of Registered Mail.

LOS ANGELES, September 10.—Four men held up five mail clerks in a substation of the Los Angeles post office early today and escaped with two locked pouches of registered mail.

As the bandits were leaving the building a mail truck drove up, the engine backing. The men, mistaking the police believe, the backing for a gun shot, fired several revolver shots at the driver. The bullets went wild, one striking a passer-by.

The bandits escaped in an automobile. Postal authorities are checking up to ascertain the value of the stolen mail.

#### Five Hurt in Auto Smash.

MIAMI, Fla., September 10.—Five persons were injured, two probably fatally, when the automobile of Fire Chief Coleman, speeding to a small blaze early tonight, crashed into a car containing three occupants. Both cars were wrecked.

## Pirates' Buried Gold Reported Discovered

### On Louisiana Coast

By the Associated Press.  
NEW ORLEANS, La., September 10.—Part of the supposed buried treasure of Jean Lafitte, the pirate, has been found in the vicinity of Jefferson Island, the home of the late Joseph Jefferson, and excitement in that neighborhood is at fever pitch, according to reports from the south Louisiana coast.

Evidence of the treasure is furnished by several gold coins of ancient date, which have recently found their way into circulation on the island, two of them bearing the date 1754. According to the reports, two pots of buried gold were found, but such a furor was caused when the gold appeared that the treasure hunters have been slain on the discovery.

According to generally believed legends and stories handed down from generation to generation, large sums were buried in this neighborhood by Lafitte, who preyed upon Gulf and river shipping in the seventeenth century.

## BAVARIA MENACES GERMAN REPUBLIC

### Grave Disorders Include Open Refusal to Obey Berlin Mandates.

By Cable to The Star and New York Tribune,  
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GENEVA, September 10.—Grave disorders are menacing Bavaria and may be the beginning of a movement that will overthrow the German republic, according to word received here by certain delegates to the league of nations assembly.

Bavaria is openly refusing to obey the mandates of the Berlin authorities. The information available here shows that the Munich leaders are trying to force a crisis in the negotiations now in progress with Berlin and attempt the overthrow of the republic at the earliest possible moment.

#### Defiance Causes Worry.

This defiance to the central government is viewed with apprehension in connection with the growth of the monarchist movement that is developing in Bavaria.

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## BLACK KITTEN HALTS PRESIDENTIAL AUTOS

### Party Waits for Tiny Pussycat Cross Road—Clear Skies on Run to Atlantic City.

By the Associated Press.

PHILADELPHIA, September 10.—President Harding and party, motor- ing from Washington to Atlantic City, N. J., for a few days' outing, stopped in Philadelphia tonight for a five-hour ride from Washington and took dinner at a prominent hotel.

The run from Washington was made under pleasant skies and was without particular incident. Occasionally the party was recognized by persons in the road and the President cordially acknowledged the greetings.

At Bel Air, Md., the motor cars were halted to let a tiny jet-black kitten that was in the middle of the roadway cross.

The arrival of the presidential party was unexpected at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel here.

The President and his party left at 9:30 p.m., and crossed the Delaware river on a ferry for the last leg of the journey to Atlantic City.

#### FINDS HIMSELF GUILTY.

TAMPA, Fla., September 10.—Julian H. Hazard, county judge of Hillsborough county, arrested by a motor cycle policeman, who charged that he had operated an automobile without proper license, has bound himself over to the criminal court for trial.

Judge Hazard held a peremptory hearing, found himself guilty as charged, bound himself over to the criminal court, then ordered that he be released from custody on his own recognizance, declaring he felt reasonably certain he would be present in court when his case was called.

## "FATTY" TO BE HELD IN DEATH MYSTERY

### Virginia Rappe Dies After Be- ing Entertained in Movie Actor's Hotel Room.

#### NO CHARGES ARE MADE

#### Arbuckle Will Be "In Custody" Pending Grand Jury Investigation.

By the Associated Press.  
SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., September 10.—Roscoe ("Fatty") Arbuckle, motion picture actor, is to be held in custody pending the death of Miss Virginia Rappe, following a party in Arbuckle's rooms at the St. Francis Hotel here, Acting Capt. of Detectives Michael Griffith announced today.

"Arbuckle will not be arrested," Griffith said, "but he will be detained by us until the investigation has been concluded. I have put four detectives on the case. I understand that he is coming up here voluntarily, but he will be compelled to remain until the police have finished with him. At present we are not contemplating any charge against him."

#### Grand Jury to Investigate.

The county grand jury is to start an investigation at its regular meeting on Monday night. Info. Miss Rappe's death and Arbuckle's interest in it, Harry Kelly, secretary of the jury, said today.

"So many women's clubs and private individuals interested in the moral welfare of the city have demanded an investigation that I will present their demands to the jury," Kelly said. "It is our duty to investigate such things, and we will certainly do so. The district attorney, who is at present out of the city, will be advised of the circumstances when he returns, and he will handle the matter before the grand jury."

Dr. M. E. Rumwell, who attended Miss Rappe in the hotel following the party, and Dr. William Ophuls, who performed an autopsy on her, were called to the coroner's office today to be questioned concerning their knowledge of the case.

#### Unaware of Serious Illness.

Arbuckle, in Los Angeles said Miss Rappe came to his apartments to meet a friend of his who wished to model some gowns for her. She had "one or two drinks," he said, after which she became hysterical. Two other women, who were callers at the apartments, he declared, looked after Miss Rappe, after which she was taken to another room and placed in the care of a physician. Arbuckle said he had no intimation her illness was serious until informed last night that she was dead.

According to women members of the party, Miss Rappe when found was partially conscious.

She was placed in a cold bath in an endeavor to revive her, but this had no effect and she was taken into another room and put to bed. The house physician was called and later she was taken to the sanitarium where she died.

Arbuckle arrived in San Francisco tonight and went to the hall of justice, where he was closeted with detectives.

#### Plans to Assemble Committee.

In connection with the disarmament demonstrations, it was stated, Mr. Gompers plans assembling an advisory committee "composed of leading men and women in all walks of life, the personnel of which will be announced soon. The object of the committee, as stated in the announcement, will be to aid in obtaining 'full expression of the disarmament sentiment of the country.'" and

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#### TRAINING SCHOOL FOR SLEUTHS WILL BE OPENED BY GOVERNMENT

Establishment of a training school for government sleuths in New York was announced last night by Attorney General Daugherty as a part of the reorganization of the bureau of investigation of the Department of Justice, now being effected.

All Justice Department agents now in the service and all to be appointed, Mr. Daugherty said, will be sent to the school for instructions. "It is hoped," he added, "that through this school personnel of investigators may be obtained which will rank favorably, if not surpass, agencies of a similar character throughout the world

## LABOR WILL STAGE HUGE PARADES FOR REDUCING OF ARMS

### Nation-Wide Demonstration to Take Place as Confer- ence Convenes Here.

#### PURPOSE TO BACK STEPS BY U. S. GOVERNMENT

#### A. F. of L. Authorizes Preparations for Show of Sentiment of Work- ers on Armistice Day.

Plans for a nation-wide demonstration Armistice day under the leadership of organized labor "in support of the purpose underlying the international conference on the limitation of armaments" were announced today at headquarters of the American Federation of Labor. Central unions in every community have been asked to organize parades and mass meetings on that day—when the international conference begins its deliberations.

"It is planned," the announcement said, "to unite all civic bodies, trade union auxiliaries, women's trade union leagues, educational organizations, women's clubs and, in fact, all organizations interested in civic affairs and of a progressive character, in the great effort."

The purpose of the demonstration, as expressed in the communications sent by President Gompers to the central unions, is "backing up our government in its leadership toward disarmament and giving courage and determination to the American representatives in the international commission."

#### Considered for Some Time.

The plan to signalize Armistice day and the opening of the arms limitation conference with a series of demonstrations in which it is hoped by federation officials that every city, town and community in the country will be represented, has been under consideration at headquarters for three weeks or more. Authority for taking the initiative was granted by the federation's executive council and suggestions as to ways and means for promoting successful demonstrations have been forwarded to the central union, as well as data as to the cost of armament and war and the division of labor between armament and educational development.

The plan even goes beyond the Armistice day demonstration, the announcement said, and looks to continuing the movement in such fashion "as to bring to the support of the (international) conference a constant expression of American public opinion" during the deliberations in Washington. A memorial to the international gathering, urging reduction of armament and the settlement of international disputes without resort to arms, will be forwarded by the federation for adoption by each Armistice day mass meeting.

#### Disarmament Is Slogan.

"The time has come to disarm" is the slogan, said President Gompers' letter to the central unions. "The hour has struck to make good our faith in democracy, to bring success to the great constructive movement in which labor has ever been the leader.

"Let this be America's greatest demonstration, America's greatest mandate, America's greatest pledge of faith in peace for the world."

Attention was called to an article by Mr. Gompers, in the current issue of the federation journal, saying that disarmament now was possible for "practical reasons," while sentimental reasons had existed all ways. But the necessity of "protecting democracy against the constant threatened menace of autocracy and militarism," Mr. Gompers added, "always had stood in the way."

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There were frantic screams at the morgue, where the recovered bodies were taken. The place was stormed by persons seeking relatives and friends. The scene recalled that of April, 1917, when more than 125 persons lost their lives in an explosion at an ammunition plant, at Eddystone, near here.

#### Twenty Bodies Recovered.

An hour and a half after the collapse, more than twenty bodies had been removed to the morgue. At that time there were seven seriously injured persons in the Chester Hospital.

E. W. White, the coroner, was on the scene shortly after the collapse of the bridge.

The accident happened just as the tide was at ebb. Rescuers realized that it soon would flow out and possibly carry bodies into the Delaware river, so fire department ladders were stuck into the water to form a screen and prevent any bodies in the river from going out with the tide. Fishing nets also were used for this purpose.

James Emerbe of Chester was standing near the bridge when the accident occurred. He dragged twenty-three men, women and children from the water. Nine of them upon examination were found to be dead. The child that was drowned had

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)

## Fountain Bathing Furnishes Sport For Children Here

### Fountain Bathing in the public parks is the latest outdoor sport of Washington children.

When the superintendent of public buildings and grounds turned water into the park fountains recently for the first time in several summers, boys and girls of Blossington and other parks hit upon the bright idea of taking a dip without journeying all the way to Potomac Park.

Yesterday afternoon a score or more of children in bathing suits were splashing in the fountains at North Capitol street and Florida avenue.

Inquiry at the office of public buildings and grounds developed the fact that no steps would be taken to prevent the children from wading in the fountains.

## 24 DROWN IN RIVER AS FOOTWAY FALLS; 15 OTHERS MISSING

### Neighborhood Folk, Watching Search for Drowned Lad, Die at Chester, Pa.

By the Associated Press.

CHESTER, Pa., September 10.—Twenty-four persons are known to be dead, nearly as many injured, and a number of bodies are believed to be at the bottom of Chester river here as the result of the collapse of part of a footway on the 3d street bridge over that stream tonight. No one knows the number of unrecovered dead, and estimates run as high as fifteen. Work of searching the river bottom proceeded tonight under the glare of powerful searchlights requisitioned from nearby shipyards.

The drowning of a small boy, Gus Apostolos, led to the disaster. He had been playing on the bank of the river with a little girl playmate and slipped into the water and sank before help could reach him. While police searched for the body a crowd gathered on the "footway" part of which collapsed. Without any notice nearly a hundred men, women and children, living in the neighborhood, were thrown into the water, twenty feet below.

#### Terrible Struggle in Water.

There was a terrible struggle. Good swimmers were unable to break the grasp of those who could not remain afloat and were dragged to the bottom of the river. Others were crushed in the collapsing of the section of the footpath and went down without a struggle. The scene of the accident is in the business section of the city and rescuers were prompt in saving many of those who fell into the water.

The bridge was of steel construction of an old-fashioned type. The footpath was built along its side, and according to residents of Chester, it had been condemned three times. The footpath was supported by a steel girder, which buckled and opened a large hole in the wooden path, through which the unfortunate people fell.

There were frantic screams at the morgue, where the recovered bodies were taken. The place was stormed by persons seeking relatives and friends. The scene recalled that of April, 1917, when more than 125 persons lost their lives in an explosion at an ammunition plant, at Eddystone, near here.

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(Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)

## \$250,000 FIRE LOSS; ALEXANDRIA WATER FRONT THREATENED

### Virginia Shipbuilding Corpora- tion Swept by Flames. Ice Company Damaged.

#### BELIEVED INCENDIARY; THREE SEPARATE BLAZES

#### Houseboat Burns—Sky Illuminated for Hours—Washington's Fire- fighter Gives Valuable Aid.

Three fires, believed by officials of the fire department to have been the work of incendiaries, threatened the entire water front of Alexandria for more than two hours last night and caused damage estimated at approximately \$250,000.

The most serious blaze started at 7:40 o'clock in the large storage warehouse of the Virginia Shipbuilding Corporation. Damage at this plant was estimated at approximately \$200,000. The second blaze was at the frame warehouse of the Mutual Ice Company, in which was stored several thousand dollars' worth of cotton, the property of the United States government. This fire started exactly one hour after the first. Damage here was estimated at about \$50,000.

During the progress of the ice company warehouse fire, a third serious blaze started on a houseboat anchored off the river front above the plant of the Old Dominion Glass Company. Damage probably will be fixed at less than \$1,000.

#### Fire Department Tamed.

Every piece of apparatus of the Alexandria fire department was rushed to the shipyard and put the blaze under control after an hour of desperate fire fighting. The warehouse, which was reduced to a smoldering mass of twisted steel, brick and debris, housed valuable equipment for use on the 2,600-ton steel freighter, George M. Morse, which was anchored less than a hundred yards from the burning building. The flames did not reach the ship.

Virtually every item of general outfitting for a steel freighter, together with numerous tools, was housed in the shipyard warehouse, and practically the entire contents of the building was demolished. The building was a one-story brick and steel structure 125 feet in length by 100 feet in width and 25 feet in height. It was flanked on one side by a fabricating plant now used by a coal-substitute factory, which was not damaged. On another side was the tool shop, copper shop and paint shop of the shipyard, none of which suffered material damage.

#### Thousands Attracted.

The fire blazed up suddenly. Within ten minutes after the first alarm had sounded, the sky was red from the flames and thousands of Alexandrians were hurrying through the streets to the scene. Approximately five thousand persons witnessed the blaze. The plant under control, word came that the Mutual Ice Company's warehouse and six streams from the shipbuilding company's water system were shortly afterward sprayed on the blaze, pumped from artesian wells.

The electric plant of the shipyard was put into operation as soon as possible and arc lights illuminating the grounds around the burning warehouse considerably. The firemen from the Washington fire department's dock, arrived at about 8:25. The stream from its water-cannon, however, failed to reach the burning building, but did effectual work in preventing the spread of the fire to adjoining structures.

Shortly after the shipyard blaze was put under control, word came that the Mutual Ice Company's warehouse, approximately a mile north on the river front, was in flames. Fire Chief E. J. McDermott of Alexandria, requested fire officers of the Washington fire department's dock, arrived at about 8:25. The stream from its water-cannon, however, failed to reach the burning building, but did effectual work in preventing the spread of the fire to adjoining structures.

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